

IS IT CONSPIRACY?

Mrs. Ayer's Remarkable Allegations Against Her Relatives.

She Claims They Drugged Her and Plotted to Get Her Money.

Father-in-Law James M. Seymour Gives His Side of the Story.

Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer is raising a tremendous sensation. Novelists in need of "material" can get it by the cart load from the Gaboriau-like details which are coming out in the case which Judge Daly has under his hands at present, in the Court of Common Pleas.

All the dreadful series of outrages which Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer has been exposed to have come out by Counselor Stephen H. Olm entering an injunction to restrain Mr. James M. Seymour, Assistant Treasurer of the Recamer Manufacturing Company; Allen Lewis Seymour, his son, Treasurer of the same company, and Mrs. Allen Lewis Seymour, daughter of Harriet Hubbard Ayer, from disposing of 498 shares of the Recamer Company's stock.

A pitiful tale of family infelicity is poured into the public ear back of this injunction. Mrs. Harriet Ayer has advertised her wars, and, incidentally, her domesticity, in the newspapers and columns in the newspapers. The graphic touches that have embellished Mrs. Ayer's history, and which have furnished the material for her novel, are all true.

Mrs. Ayer's daughter, Harriet, was married to Allen Lewis Seymour on Nov. 11, 1888. There was a good deal of father-in-law interference in the domesticity. "Papa" James Seymour, of the Wall street broker's firm of Seymour, Baker & Co., dearly loved his son Allen, and proportionately loved his daughter-in-law, Harriet.

Through this early parental regard for the young people he was led to take an interest in Mother-in-Law Ayer. He says her business concerns were in a dreadfully broken-down condition. Yet the mistress of the Recamer cream recipe used to advertise by the mile in the coast of Europe, and the expense must have been enormous.

However, he threw himself into the breach and organized the Recamer Company. One thousand shares at \$50 par value were issued, and Papa Seymour received 498 shares as collateral. Mrs. Ayer says for which he advanced \$250,000, and said he would "put up" \$250,000 if necessary.

Mrs. Ayer claims that the \$500,000 loan of Father-in-Law Seymour has been wiped out and she wants her \$250,000 back.

Now comes the thrilling part of the story. Mrs. Ayer says that the Seymour faction formed a conspiracy to keep the shares, to poison her, to have her adjudged insane, and that, incidentally, Papa Seymour, who seems cast for the Mephistopheles of the play, broke into her private drawers and filched the precious cream recipe, a capital for making it out, and other precious documents, that he forged an order by which he obtained more papers from Dr. J. W. Pinkham, of Hingham, N. J., obtained letters sent to her at the Clarion Hotel, sent lying telegrams to her in Europe, that he might prevent her return by persuading her that her daughter Harriet was going to cross, and caused trouble of little and substance to be administered to her in excessive doses at Stuttgart, Wurtemberg.

The Seymours also called meetings of the Recamer Company, and "Papa" Seymour, who was Mr. Ayer, although she was frequent, and drew money from the concern without any authorization from her.

Mrs. Ayer claims that her health has been ruined by the hypnotic drugs that were administered to her, and that her business has been seriously injured.

All these heart-rending things do Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer set forth in a voluminous affidavit. Amelia Queen, her cook and landlady, also deposes in corroboration of her mistress's allegations. So, too, does Lena Raymond, Mrs. Ayer's maid, and Mr. Stephen H. Olm, of the law firm of Olm, Reeves & Montgomery, and Mr. Austin G. Fox, attorney for Mrs. Ayer, also support her statements by affidavit.

In opposition to this startling array of charges, the Seymours oppose an affidavit in which everything is denied.

James Seymour says the stock was his own and that the money was his own. He says that the money was his own and that the money was his own.

This opens up another Fox-like chapter in the history of Mrs. Ayer. She was undoubtedly ill in the fall of 1888, and went to Europe.

Dr. George F. Shady, of this city, says she went abroad under his advice. He diagnosed her case as hypochondria. He used to give her salicylate, but never more than twenty grains a day, and he always watched with her for a couple of hours after she took it.

Mrs. Ayer's younger daughter, Margaret, was in Stuttgart, where her education was being conducted under the supervision of Miss Blanche Willis Howard. The public at large knows this lady as an entertaining authoress, who made quite a little by her first book, "One Summer," and who also wrote two other novels that were very good, "Glen" and "Again." Mrs. Ayer when she went abroad repaired to Stuttgart to solicit herself by a visit to her daughter Margaret.

At Christmas time Mrs. Ayer told her maid Lena that she was going to try Dr. Tenfel's treatment for insomnia for a week. The next day she began to feel better, according to Lena's statement, Miss Howard assumed full control of things and set her by completely.

According to the Ayer side of the question, Miss Blanche Willis Howard, who was a role which put her in open rivalry with Lueria Borgia, Mme. Ervinville, and Willie Collins's heroine, "Miss Gwilt."

Dr. Tenfel says he began to treat Mrs. Ayer Dec. 29. On Dec. 29 she lapsed into unconsciousness, and was so well cured of insomnia that she didn't wake up till Jan. 10, 1889.

According to her, Mrs. Ayer, whose familiarity with the production of cosmetics and toilet articles had discovered that alcohol was being used in the preparation of the cologne, bottle, heliotrope and other kindred things from their proper use. She would think them. It is true, if Miss Howard is to be given credence, that food, every opportunity to supply herself with a more wholesome beverage in the shape of brandy.

Margaret Ayer, Miss Howard's charge, also wrote the most interesting letters, according to the Ayer side of the question, in which this infantile critic indulges in the severest strictures on the way in which her mamma used to bleach her hair and cosmetic her skin.

An EVENING WORLD reporter saw Mr. James Seymour this morning at his office, 52 Park place.

Mr. Seymour is a handsome-looking man, slim of build and of medium height. His black hair and mustache is streaked with silver, and a pair of expressive brown eyes peep from behind a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles.

He is apparently about forty-five years of age. His son Allen Lewis Seymour, another of the defendants, stood by his side. He is a nice looking young fellow, of perhaps twenty-three years.

"I don't care to be interviewed," said Mr. Seymour, at first, "for the matter is too ridiculous to talk about. I did enter into a conspiracy against Mrs. Ayer. I admit that. But it was to cure her of the alcohol habit. What do you mean by that?" queried the reporter.

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GUTTED BY FIRE.

A Front Street Storage Warehouse Completely Destroyed.

The Pierce Blaze Necessitates a Third Alarm.

More Than \$115,000 Worth of Tea and Coffee Consumed.

A watchman while patrolling his beat about 5 o'clock this morning saw a tiny flame shoot out of one of the cellar windows of the building No. 125 and 127 Front street.

Then it disappeared.

He watched, and again the flame shot out, this time larger and accompanied by a dense volume of smoke.

He ran to the box corner of South and Wall streets, and promptly sent out an alarm.

The flames must have gained with unusual rapidity, for in less than two minutes, when Chief Cushman arrived, the fire was making a heroic attempt to cut a passage through the roof.

A third alarm was sent out immediately, and even the reinforcements found a hard fight on hand.

The elevator shaft at the entrance to No. 127 was a sheet of roaring flame.

The building was stacked from cellar to roof with tea and coffee, and the flames made the work of the firemen very difficult.

The fire increased in size, and despite heroic efforts by the firemen the entire place was gutted.

The building had two additions; one was the four-story brick building at 93 Pine street and the other was two three-story stone buildings at 95 and 97 South street.

The Pine street building was flooded with water and slightly scorched by the fire. The South street buildings escaped with a little drenching by water.

The water when poured upon the huge stock of tea became steamed by the fire and the result was that clear streams of tea came pouring out of the doors and windows of the front street building.

Another peculiar feature of the fire was that some boxes of tea, which were on storage on one of the floors, burst open, and the street in front of the burning warehouse was strewn with white foam, which looked like bleached wool.

The building was the largest of any devoted to the tea and coffee business in America.

Clifford E. Bellows occupied the cellar and part of the first floor in all three buildings for storage purposes. His loss will probably foot up alone to \$50,000, mostly covered by insurance.

John Wright, a tea and coffee importer, and the Eureka Mills Coffee and Tea Company also occupied the first floor. They had a stock damaged about \$2,500 each, insured.

J. H. Labaree & Co., wholesale grocers, who occupied the second floor, had \$50,000 worth of damage inflicted on their stock.

E. F. Egan & Co., who were on the third floor, will lose about \$10,000.

The building was owned by the Sturgis estate.

How the fire happened no one seems to know. It is probable that it resulted from spontaneous combustion among some of the goods which Labaree & Co. had stored away in the cellar.

DIED IN SIGHT OF LAND.

An Immigrant Family Comes Ashore with Its Head a Corpse.

A sad group of immigrants came through Castle Garden yesterday. A woman and eight young children stepped off the barge which conveyed the immigrants from the German steamship *Servia*, having become, only a minute before, a widow and orphan.

Wilhelm Adlag had died on the barge since leaving the steamer. Less than a fortnight ago Adlag, brave and sturdy, in the prime of manhood, sold his home in Germany and with the proceeds embarked at Hamburg, bound for America with his family. The *Servia* had been a few days out when Adlag contracted a cold and pneumonia resulted in Hoboken yesterday the man was in a very precarious condition, but his longing wish to see America was gratified. The *Servia*'s officers allowed him, and the mist and rain which prevailed, to be transferred to the Castle Garden barge. He died within a stone's throw of the shore, conscious to the last moment.

Mrs. Adlag, overcome with grief, charged the officers of the *Servia* with inflicting in permitting her husband to be removed under the circumstances, but Secretary Jackson, of Castle Garden, told her when her mute, become calmer she will feel differently. The bereaved family was taken in charge by a sister of Mrs. Adlag, who lives in Hoboken.

The Day in Wall Street.

The share speculation was characterized by great strength to-day. Business was active and well distributed right through the list. The Grangers were noticeably prominent in the dealings, and scored the highest figures for a long time. There was a better inquiry for Trust stocks, and a wider market for 3,000 Chicago Gas up to 54 1/2. Sugar Refiners advanced 1 1/2 to 1 3/4, on large transactions.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy directors have declared a dividend of 1 percent.

THE CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

American Cotton Oil, 22 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 11 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 11 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 11 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 11 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 11 1/2; Am. Sugar, 11 1/2; Am. Tobacco, 11 1/2; Am. Tea, 11 1/2; Am. Coffee, 11 1/2; Am. Rice, 11 1/2; Am. Flour, 11 1/2; Am. Lard, 11 1/2; Am. Butter, 11 1/2; Am. Eggs, 11 1/2; Am. Hides, 11 1/2; Am. Wool, 11 1/2; Am. Leather, 11 1/2; Am. Iron, 11 1/2; Am. Steel, 11 1/2; Am. Coal, 11 1/2; Am. Gas, 11 1/2; Am. Oil, 1